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FLOOR DEBATE

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someone supposed to give CPR if we do not have a two-person crew? After I read this I'm not sure that, perhaps, we shouldn't even have more than two people. But certainly it's scary to think of trying to operate these trains with only one person. Senator Adrian Smith's district, which includes Scottsbluff, had a first-hand knowledge of what happens when a derailment occurs and the cargo of that train contained toxic chemicals. You may remember, and I'm quoting from an article in the Scottsbluff Star-Herald, dated November 15, 2000: The incident that occurred when a derailment of 18 cars of a 79-car train, including 8 tankers on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad spilled 80,000 to 100,000 gallons of low-grade gasoline containing benzene. An attorney advised at least 50 local residents not to sign a waiver being sought by the railroad for those who want to recover some out-of-pocket expense including due to...included in the spill. Incidentally, the spill led to the evacuation of a half-mile radius, schools were closed and Governor Johanns, who was in the area, suggested that railroad officials should have moved faster to advise local authorities about what kind of chemicals they were dealing with. And when the derailment of the spill occurred, Governor Johanns also offered the use of the National Guard if the city needed assistance. The article continues and included information that even short-term exposure to high levels of benzene can cause drowsiness, dizziness, unconsciousness, and death. In addition to inhalation, benzene can be absorbed through the skin. Although some of the interested parties have attempted to persuade you that this is a bad bill and that it's unnecessary, I hope you will listen to your constituents, men and women who work on the railroad on a daily basis and who know and understand what it's like to travel on a train day and night, attempting to do their jobs in sometimes adverse and literally dangerous conditions. Sometimes they're just plain tired. Currently, we have a study going on concerning fatigue of rail operators. And I think I would invite your attention to look at the article that Keith Blackledge had submitted, and that will be among the materials that you will receive. And he had the experience of just traveling in one of these trains and seeing what it's actually like. I want to remind everyone LB 185 only ensures that a crew of two individuals will be on the train moving between terminals in this state, until such time as the